E whā ngā Pou

A journey of identity, disconnection, reconnection and aspiration

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Te Whakatōhea | Ngāi Tamahaua

Ko wai au?

RECEIVED
Waitangi Tribunal
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THE JOURNEY

Four pou, one journey

POU 1

Ko wai au

I did not know who I was.

POU 2

Ngā tīpuna me te motu

I came to understand why.

POU 3

Te hokinga ki te kāinga

I found my way home.

POU 4

Ngā wawata

I want others to find their way home too.

POU 1 — KO WAI AU

Who I am

I grew up disconnected from my iwi, whakapapa and whenua.

I was raised largely understanding myself as Pākehā. Discovering that I was Māori was the beginning - not the answer.

My evidence

A lived experience of reconnecting with Te Whakatōhea

How disconnection happened

Ngahiraka — **raupatu** — **generations of disconnection** — **me**

The land was not the only thing that was lost.

Reo • tikanga • whakapapa knowledge • belonging • relationship with whenua

POU 3 — TE HOKINGA KI TE KĀINGA

Finding my way home

Reconnection was not one moment.

It was a series of relationships, experiences and opportunities that gave me confidence to belong.

Whakapapa	People	Welcome	Participation
Finding out	Te Kahautu	Te Rere Marae	Tohekura & hapū

For the first time I felt like I was finding my way home.

POU 4 — NGĀ WAWATA

Creating pathways home

Wanting to come home is not always enough.

For uri living away from the rohe, distance, housing, employment and uncertainty can make reconnection difficult.

Toheconnect

Bring wānanga and connection to uri, wherever they are.

A pathway into reconnection - not a replacement for whenua.

LOOKING FORWARD

What makes reconnection possible?

Whakapapa	Knowing where we come from
People	Someone to open the door
Knowledge	Reo, history and tikanga
Welcome	A genuine sense of belonging
Opportunity	Ways to participate and contribute

The door is open.

The question is whether people can reach it.

CLOSING

Ki te kimi, ki te rapu

Ko wai au?

I know who I am.
I know where I come from.
I know where I belong.

My hope is that other uri searching for connection do not have to search for as long as I did.